

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16205

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PINS, IT, UR, GW
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV MEETS BERLINGUER AND MIES

1. SUMMARY: PRAVDA OF NOVEMBER 4 REPORTS MEETINGS
HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, BETWEEN BREZHNEV, AND HERBERT MIES AND
ENRICO BERLINGUER, HEADS, RESPECTIVELY, OF THE WEST GERMAN AND
ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTIES. THE MEETING WITH MIES REPORTED
FIRST, OBVIOUSLY WENT WELL WHEREAS THE MEETING WITH BERLINGUER,
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REPORTED IN GREATER DETAIL, APPEARS TO HAVE MARKED A STANDOFF
WITH EACH SIDE REITERATING POSITIONS. BERLINGUER MADE A COURTESY
CALL ON THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AFTER HE MET WITH BREZHNEV.
END SUMMARY.

2. BREZHNEV, ACCOMPAINED BY SUSLOV AND PONOMOVEV, AS
WELL AS HIS AIDE A.I. BLATOV, RECEIVED ON NOVEMBER 3 BOTH

MIES AND BERLINGUER IN AN APPARENT EFFORT TO BALANCE OFF THE TWO MAIN TENDENCIES IN WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNISM. MIES, AS HIS SPEECH ON NOVEMBER 3 (SEPTEL) DEMONSTRATED IS WHOLLY IN THE SOVIET CAMP. MIES TOLD BREZHNEV THAT SOVIET ACHIEVEMENTS ARE A GREAT AID TO ALL COMMUNISTS AND STATED THAT THE SOVIET EXPERIENCE "WILL HAVE UNFADING SIGNIFICANCE." BREZHNEV EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER REACTIONARY TENDENCIES IN GERMANY AND OVER WEST GERMAN "DISCRIMINATION AGAINST COMMUNISTS. THE RECEPTION IS REPORTED TO HAVE PASSED "IN THE SPIRIT OF COMRADELY FRIENDSHIP AND CORDIALITY."

3. BERLINGUER DELIVERED "CORDIAL CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY AND INFORMED BREZHNEV OF PCI POLICIES AT HOME. BREZHNEV IN TURN EXPRESSED "COMRADELY SOLIDARITY" WITH THE PCI. THEN, ACCORDING TO PRAVDA, THE TWO SIDES EXCHANGED OPINIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. THEY BOTH SUPPORTED DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT AND BERLINGUER GAVE A POSITIVE ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET INITIATIVES IN THIS FIELD, AND PARTICULARLY OF BREZHNEV'S PROPOSAL FOR A COMPLETE TEST BAN IN HIS NOVEMBER 2 SPEECH.

4. BREZHNEV AND BERLINGUER STRESSED THE NEED TO DEVELOP "VOLUNTARY" COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN CP'S BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUALITY, INDEPENDENCE AND NONINTERFERENCE AND DECLARED THEIR INTENTIONS TO DEVELOP FRIENDLY RELATIONS BETWEEN THEIR PARTIES. THIS MEETING
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WAS REPORTED TO HAVE PASSED IN THE SPIRIT OF
"CORDIALITY AND FRIENDSHIP."

5. BERLINGUER MET WITH THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR NOV 3 FOLLOWING HIS CONVERSATION WITH BREZHNEV. HE TOLD THE AMBASSADOR, ACCORDING TO THE ITALIAN POLCOUNS THAT THE BREZHNEV MEETING TOOK PLACE IN A SMALL ANTE-ROOM OF THE MAIN HALL OF THE PALACE OF CONGRESSES DURING THE MORNING SESSION. THE MEETING, WHICH LASTED 45 MINUTES, BERLINGUER DESCRIBED AS "CORDIAL" BUT HE LEFT THE IMPRESSION WITH THE ITALIAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS THAT IT WAS, IN FACT, MORE "BUSINESS-LIKE" THAN "CORDIAL". HE STATED THAT THE QUESTION OF HE PCE AND CARRILLO WAS NOT MENTIONED, BUT THAT DETENTE AND DISARMAMENT WERE DISCUSSED. BERLINGUER AND THE OTHER PCI DELEGATION MEMBERS WHO MET WITH THE AMBASSADOR ALL EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE COMMUNIQUE, WHICH WAS BEING "DISCUSSED" WHILE THE MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR TOOK PLACE, WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO THEM. (OTHER ASPECTS OF BERLINGUER'S CONVERSATION WITH ITALIAN AMBASSADOR REPORTED SEPTEL.)

6. COMMENT: THE BALANCING OF MIES WITH BERLINGUER WAS INTENDED TO SHOW THE BREADTH OF SOVIET TOLERATION AND FROM WELCOME ORTHODOXY TO TROUBLESOME INDEPENDENCE. BERLINGUER GAVE THE

SOVIETS QUITE A BIT TO BE HAPPY WITH BUT APPEARS TO HAVE HELD
HIS OWN ON SOME ISSUES, PRESUMABLY THOSE ENUNCIATED IN HIS
SPEECH OF NOVEMBER 2. THE LACK OF "FRATERNAL" SPIRIT (AS THERE
WAS IN THE MIES RECEPTION) UNDERSCORES THE DIFFERENCES WHICH
CONTINUE BETWEEN THE CPI AND CPSU WHICH STILL CONSIDER THEMSELVES
FIRMLY WITHIN THE SAME COMMUNIST MOVEMENT.
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